

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 187

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Bill Toungette for his distinguished service to the youth of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Toungette is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, an employee of Williamson County Schools, Dr. Toungette renders sterling service as assistant principal at Woodland Middle School in Brentwood; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely talented and compassionate professional who works assiduously to motivate Woodland Middle School students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, for the last three years, Woodland Middle School library media specialist Lindsey Anderson has led a peer-to-peer reading program, Read2Me, that connects students at her school with their reading buddies at Ida B. Wells Elementary School in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, as the middle school students read to the elementary students each week, the older students have seen an improvement in their reading fluency and their ability to check for understanding as they quiz the elementary students on the books they are reading; the older students take pride in selecting the books to be read and make Quizlets that include sight words and sentences for their reading buddy to read; and

WHEREAS, the elementary students read books that relate directly to their curriculum, and their sight word recognition and reading abilities have improved as they read a variety of books each week for fifteen to twenty-five minutes with their reading buddy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the weekly reading sessions, the students at Woodland Middle School have sponsored book drives and supplied new books for their book buddies; they have made in-person field trips to Ida B. Wells Elementary School and coauthored stories with their buddies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Toungette and Ms. Anderson have also included the elementary students in a virtual conversation with a *New York Times* best-selling author; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Toungette is an inspiration to the faculty and staff at Woodland Middle School, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Toungette truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated educator who is wholly committed to the highest precepts of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. Bill Toungette of Woodland Middle School for his distinguished service to the youth of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.